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1771 Rec 5

**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Application Number: 09/901,722

Filing Date: July 11, 2001

First Named Inventor: Akihiro Hikichi

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: N. L. Torres Velazquez

Attorney Docket Number: 03327.2259-00000

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114: Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date] _____.

ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed:

i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)	iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)

b. Other _____

3. Fees

a. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

i. \$770.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. Petition for extension of time for (3 Months) \$840 balance owed of the \$950 fee (\$110 paid 2/6/04)

iii. Other _____

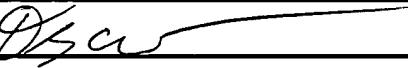
b. Check in the amount of \$1,610 enclosed.

c. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: Douglas S. Weinstein

Reg. No.: 43,249

Signature: 

Date: April 8, 2004

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: [Date]

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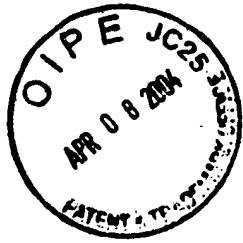
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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2259-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Akihiro HIKICHI et al.) Group Art Unit: 1771
Application No.: 09/901,722) Examiner: N.L. Torres-Velazquez
Filed: July 11, 2001)
For: NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION)
MATERIAL)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated October 8, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE), a request for a two-month extension of time (a one-month extension having previously been granted and paid in full), and the appropriate fees are being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments below is respectfully requested.